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## HOW JAPANESE MEET DEATH

Striking Heroism of Soldiers on a Transport.

### SINKING OF THE KINSHUMARU.

Tragic End of Officers and Men When the Vessel Was Torpedoed by Russians—Some Committed Suicide. Others Kept Up a Hot Fire and Sank Cheering and Singing.

Death rather than submission was the fate which was voluntarily chosen by the soldiers and others who were on board the transport Kinshumaru at Gensan when the Russian warships suddenly appeared on the scene. The Kobe Chronicle reprints from a native paper a most interesting account of this stirring incident of the war, says the London Telegraph. It appears that the men had been ashore scouting and had then re-embarked. The escorting torpedo boat destroyer flotilla put to sea and the transport followed, but soon the vessels were separated in a fog, and when this lifted the Kinshumaru, thinking the squadron to be the ships, Captain Yano of the Kinshumaru, thinking the squadron to be the Japanese, altered her course and steered toward the warships, when the signal "Stop" floating from the mainmast and the firing of a blank shot across the Kinshumaru's bows brought the ship to a standstill. This turn of events naturally caused surprise and astonishment on board the transport, but nothing could be done in the way of escaping. Lieutenant Commander Mizoguchi, who had charge of the work of the transport, proposed visiting the warships and taking such measures as required by circumstances. This was agreed to be the best course, and having said farewell to the military officers in command of the troops and accompanied by Captain Yano, Paymaster Iida and an interpreter, Mr. Kondo, the lieutenant commander rowed to the nearest warship, whence, as is known, the party never returned and are now prisoners of war at Irkutsk.

On board the Kinshumaru the military officers assembled in the saloon and took counsel as to their course of action. The officers were Captain Shima, Captain Sakurai, Lieutenant Terada, Lieutenant Yokota and Ensign Higashi. After the conference Captain Shima went into the between decks, where the men had been ordered to assemble, and gave orders as to the course to be taken by them. Meanwhile both the transport and the warships had been lowering boats, and three officers boarded the Kinshumaru and ordered the troops to lay down their arms and surrender, stating that if they did so they would be taken on board the warships. The soldiers were given an hour in which to arrive at a decision, and having allowed the crew of the steamer and the passengers to take to the boats the naval officers returned to the squadron.

It was now past midnight, with a bright moon and clear sky. A great silence prevailed on the transport, which now had only troops on board and a few bluejackets and coolies. Captain Shima once again inspected his men, who were found in perfect order, some motionless, but others fixing bayonets or loading their rifles, preparing for the end. Sergeant Major Washi was collecting the maps, sketches, etc., kept by the officers. Sergeant Okano gathered in the note books of the men, and maps and note books were thrown into the engine room fire. A corporal ordered the men to take off the numbers on their shoulder straps so that everything should be destroyed which would prove of any value to the enemy afterward.

It was past 1 o'clock on the morning of April 26 when the Russians discharged a torpedo against the fore part of the transport. On this Captain Shima went into the 'tween decks and freed the men from military discipline. They were told to take what course they thought fit, as nothing could be done to avert disaster. The men, anxious to know the fate of their officers, swarmed up the companionways to the saloon, found the doors locked and no sound issuing therefrom. Inside were the officers, who had agreed to sink with the steamer, imprisoned in the saloon so that they should not fall into the hands of the enemy. Particular and scrupulous to the last, the officers had persuaded Captain Sakurai, who did not belong to their regiment, of the inadvisability of his dying with them. Captain Sakurai, an old experienced officer, regarded by the general staff as one of the smartest officers of the army in northern Korea, left his comrades, and the manner of his death is unknown. According to report, however, it seems there was not perfect unanimity in the manner the officers should meet their death. It is stated that Lieutenant Terada dissented from the command of Captain Shima that the officers should die together and left the ship vowing that he would sell his life to the enemy, but die fighting. What became of Lieutenant Terada is not known.

The end of the men was equally tragic. Some minutes after Captain Shima had given his last commands, which left the soldiers to their own resources. Sergeant Kurisu and Corporal Horisaka committed suicide by shooting each other, and many followed this example. Sergeant Okano went on deck, drew his sword and committed harikari, an example, we are told, which was also followed by some of his men. A rather more soldierlike way of spending the last moments of their lives was that of Corporal Hashimoto and some sixty men, who from the deck fired repeatedly at the Rus-

sians by the corporal's command. The enemy replied with fatal effect, but the end of all was now near. Fifty minutes after the first torpedo was discharged a second torpedo struck the Kinshumaru and nearly cut the vessel into two parts. It sank in thirteen minutes, but during this time a hot fire was kept up by the Japanese, who went down with the ship, cheering and singing the march song of their regiment.

The final stage of this chapter of the war is well known—how about sixty of the men succeeded in getting clear of the ship, either before or after she sank, and reaching the coast, but there were noncombatants whose fate is quite uncertain, bluejackets and coolies, whom it is thought possible the Russians may have picked up afterward. The end of many on board the Kinshumaru is one more striking example of the heroism with which men can be inspired when the alternative to death is surrender and the sense of military disgrace.

### BIG IRRIGATION PROJECT.

#### Costly Network of Canals Planned For the Big Bend Country.

In the dim and distant future, when government irrigation has been proved a success, and when some of the countless dollars now being expended on irrigation works in various western states come back into the treasury, the engineers of the reclamation service hope to take up and carry out a project in the state of Washington which will eclipse anything of the kind in the world, says the Washington Post. In what is known as the Big Bend country, the government has found an irrigation scheme which is apparently feasible, but which is more costly than any other in the country.

By means of properly constructed canals, it is believed the government can distribute the surplus waters of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho, over a tract of 1,500,000 acres of land, at an aggregate cost of \$25,000,000. Of course a scheme so gigantic must be approached with care and precaution, and to this end preliminary investigations have recently been begun looking to the ultimate carrying out of this project, which will overshadow even the greatest irrigation works of Egypt. Some idea of the enormity of this project can be gathered from the fact that it will require a tunnel twenty-six miles long to carry the water from Lake Coeur d'Alene through the mountains and out on to the highlands in Washington.

In order to carry sufficient water to irrigate the vast Big Bend tract, this tunnel must be of such dimensions as will accommodate two railroad trains, running abreast. In other words, a tunnel the size of the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel under the Hudson river, New York. Stupendous though this project is, engineers believe it is entirely practicable and expect in time to see it carried out.

### BRIDEGROOM ON COFFIN LID

Joke Played on Recruiant Member of a "Thirteen Club."

Strapped to the lid of a coffin and escorted with all the ceremony of an ancient Egyptian funeral procession, Frank Ellis was carried to the prenuptial reception given him by his fellow members of the Thirteen club of Woodlawn, Ill., says a Chicago dispatch.

The club is an organization of bachelors who agreed not to marry, and Mr. Ellis was the first to break the agreement. Carey Reese, president of the club, sent for Mr. Ellis the other day, and when the latter got off the train at Auburn Park he was met by twelve men dressed in white gowns and caps.

Mr. Ellis was overpowered and strapped to the coffin lid. He was placed in a wagon draped in white and pulled by two white horses. At the head two men marched, beating muffled drums, two others led the horses, and two carried banners. The others marched beside the wagon, each carrying a green lamp. Inscribed on one banner were the words, "He'll be under the lid next week," and on the other was painted a skull and crossbones.

Through the principal streets the procession marched to Mr. Reese's home. The coffin and Mr. Ellis were carefully carried into the house, and all sat down to a silent dinner. Not a word was spoken until Mr. Reese arose and presented Mr. Ellis with a beautiful loving cup.

### A Wonderful Escape at Niagara Falls

Edward Lloyd, a shoemaker from Hamilton, Ont., had a narrow escape from going over the American falls a few nights ago, says the Indianapolis Sentinel. He was walking on Willow island and stepped on a rock at the water's edge. He slipped and fell into the water. He was carried rapidly down stream toward the falls. He struggled bravely to reach the shore and just above the Goat island bridge, when he had given up hope of reaching the shore, he struck a rock and managed to cling to it until his strength returned. He then made a final effort and succeeded in reaching a place of safety just below the bridge. He walked to a saloon on Falls street, where he collapsed on the floor.

### Wealth in Boer Republic.

It is reported from Johannesburg that a new and unexpected source of wealth has been discovered in the territory of the late Boer republic. Near the eastern border of the Transvaal, on the ledge of the lofty South African plateau, three valuable lodes of tin ore have been found, and the deposits are apparently so extensive that predictions are heard that the new colony may prove to be as rich in tin and copper as it is already known to be in gold.

## AWFUL COST OF WAR

HOW RUSSIA AND JAPAN ARE STAGGERING UNDER IT.

The Mikado's Army and Navy Spending \$1,000,000 Per Day, the Earnings of 8,000,000 Laborers—What the Civil War Cost Uncle Sam.

The dispatches from the seat of war in Manchuria relate chiefly how General Kuroki's columns pursued the Russians and won a brilliant victory in a pass of the mountains, or they tell how General Oku and his brave men of the Takushan army executed a danking movement against the left of General Kuropatkin's position, thus aiding the capture of Liao- yang, or how some other general and some other division of the Japanese land forces captured a strong position from the enemy after desperate fighting and won a glorious victory. To the spectator at a safe distance of a few thousand miles all this presents a fascinating picture. It is interesting to watch how the great game of war is being played, and it is exciting, sometimes thrilling, to read of the deeds of heroism and of the eagerness with which soldiers in both the contending armies court death.

But there is another side to the picture. War always presents two phases, one of glory and honor and another of suffering and misery. A nation which goes to war generally has to pay an awful price in life, in suffering and in money for any advantages it may secure. Mr. Gladstone once said that "the expenses of a war are the moral check which it has pleased the Almighty to impose upon the ambition and lust of conquest that are inherent in so many nations." The money cost alone of a great war is simply staggering. The eminent statistician, Mullhall, estimated that the American civil war cost \$2,465,000 for every day of its continuance, and it lasted 1,500 days. But even the American civil war was not so expensive per day as the Franco-German war. This is said to have cost the French at the rate of \$7,650,000 per twenty-four hours and lasted seven months.

The British spent \$10,000,000 per week in subduing the Boers in South



LEUTENANT GENERAL OKU, WHO COMMANDS JAPAN'S SECOND ARMY.

Africa. The Japanese, at the close of the China-Japanese war ten years ago, exacted from China a cession of territory and the payment of a cash indemnity of \$185,000,000. The present war is very expensive.

M. Roche, former French minister of commerce, estimates the cost of the war to Japan, including the expenditures for both naval and land forces, at a million dollars a day. That means, says M. Roche, the entire earnings of about 8,000,000 Japanese toilers, since their average wage is 12 cents a day. He estimates the cost of the war to Russia at from \$1,500,000 to \$1,750,000 a day, or the equivalent in wages of 7,000,000 Russian laborers.

In Japan the burden of the war is almost overwhelming. The difficulty of supporting those at the front is increased by the fact that war has almost paralyzed industry at home except such occupations as are dependent on conflict.

Under such circumstances much misery among the Japanese at home as well as among those on the battlefields of Manchuria is inevitable, and many are the tales of extraordinary sacrifices that are being made. Some of these it is hard for an American to appreciate or perhaps approve. A case in point is that of a young Japanese named Okano Hidegoro, earning 13 yen a month, who, when called to war, was supporting a bride and a deaf mother. He asked his father-in-law to look after the two women, but the latter had lost his position owing to hostilities and did not have enough to support his own family. There was only one thing for Hidegoro to do, and he did it. He sold his household goods and gave the proceeds to an intimate friend to use in supporting his mother. Then he procured a divorce from his bride. "It will be easy for you now to marry again," he told her when he handed her the divorce. "Perhaps you can get a new husband who will take good care of you. Anyway, you can go and look for work. If you were still my wife, thoughts of you might keep me from doing my duty on the battlefield. I want to die in battle, but I don't want to leave a penniless widow."

And the wife commended her husband's "generous, thoughtful, patriotic attitude," and taking her divorce papers, went out and found employment as a servant in a rich merchant's family.

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